



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Lee Edwin Garling**

**DEARBORN RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD**

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Lee Edwin Garling, a Dearborn resident, was sentenced to 262 months imprisonment for producing and receiving child pornography, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Detroit.

Judge Julian Able Cook imposed the sentence. Garling pleaded guilty in February 2007 to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Receipt of Child Pornography. Garling became the subject of an investigation after ICE investigators learned he had used a credit card to purchase access to a website providing online child pornography to paying customers. After obtaining a search warrant, ICE agents discovered that not only had Garling collected more than 150,000 still and video images of child pornography, but also produced child pornography by videotaping his molestation of a four-year-old girl.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "If ever a case were to illustrate the dangerous connection between child porn possession and sexual abuse of innocent children, this would be it. Defendant Garling was convicted of possessing 150,000 revolting

child porn images while at the same time abusing a 4-year-old girl. Today's 262 month sentence reinforces the principle that penalties for abusing innocent children are severe, and appropriately so. Our office will not let up in its fight to stop the dangerous acts of child predators in our community."

"All children have an absolute right to grow up free from the fear of sexual exploitation," said Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "ICE will not cease in its relentless pursuit of those who abuse our kids regardless of whether that abuse is physical in nature or if it's accomplished through the exploitation of their captured images."

Murphy praised the work of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their professionalism and dedication in their aggressive and thorough investigation of these cases.

Assistant United States Attorneys John N. O'Brien II and Kevin M. Mulcahy prosecuted this case for the United States.

"This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/)."